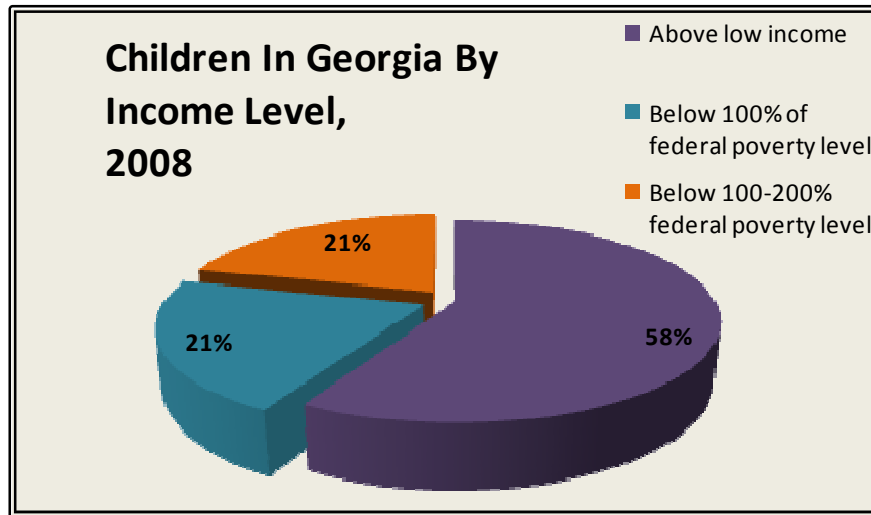




GROWING - *IMPROVE Family Stability*

GOCF outcome indicator: family living arrangements



Data Source: Georgia Demographics of Low Income Children.

A stable family structure is important when securing a child's future. An indicator of family stability is the family's income level. Parental education impacts family income level with poorly educated parents receiving significantly less income than college Graduates, even with a full time job.

Low-income families face extraordinary challenges in providing basic necessities for their children such as housing. Home ownership is a major indicator of family stability, with 67.5% of Georgians owning homes as of 2000. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, families should not pay more than 30% of their annual salary on housing. Unfortunately, 33% of all households in the United States rent their homes, with an estimated 12 million renters paying more than 50% of their income on housing. The chart below depicts the number of Georgia children living in poverty.

The national average for persons per household is 2.59, but there are still 6.1 million American families that live in overcrowded conditions. As of 2008, there are 14.7% of Georgia residents living below the poverty line. Living in extreme poverty puts a strain on family relationships and stability, and is the leading cause of family homelessness. According to the Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness, there are over 20,000 people in Georgia that are homeless at a single point in time. Homelessness has a profound impact on children. Eighty-seven percent of homeless youth are enrolled in school but only 77% of them attend regularly consequently causing the poverty cycle to repeat.

- Parental education level is a determinant of income level and can affect family stability.
- Families that pay more than 30% of their annual income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, and transportation.
- On average, over 20,000 people are homeless daily in Georgia.
- In the 2007-2008 academic year, 22,888 children in Georgia public schools were reported to be homeless

Data sources: Affordable Housing, 2010. Community Planning and Development. US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Affordable Housing Statistics. Habitat for Humanity. Causes of Homelessness. Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness. Homeless in Georgia 2008. Georgia Interagency Homeless Coordination Council. Department of Community Affairs. Parents Low Education Leads to Low Income, despite Full-Time Employment. National Center for Children in Poverty. Kids Count Data Center. Annie E. Casey Foundation. National Center for Children in Poverty.